

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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May 12, 1945

URGES FOOD PROCESSING BE PUT ON CRITICAL LIST

**Jones Says Processors Must Have Top
Priority on Manpower in Order
to Obtain Labor**

"Additional labor, machinery, facilities, and a proper recognition of the importance of food in relation to the war effort" are necessary, if the great demands for food are to be met in 1945, War Food Administrator Marvin Jones has informed Clinton P. Anderson, chairman of the special House committee investigating food shortages. The Food Administrator, in a letter to Congressman Anderson, said that processors must be placed on top priority lists for both manpower and machinery if they are to have the same basis of equality with other war industries in the procurement of labor and equipment. Official text of Judge Jones' letter follows:

In response to your request we outline herein some of the steps we are taking which we believe necessary in the effort to meet the great demands for food this year. These involve additional labor, machinery, facilities and a proper recognition of the importance of food in relation to the war effort.

1. We are continuing to press for placing all food processing plants on the must list so that they will have equality of opportunity in referrals of manpower and the securing of essential labor and materials for the processing, conserving and handling of food. This is especially needed in the meat processing, sugar refining, fruit and vegetable canning plants and the processing of fats and oils. This classification has recently been extended to the dairy products and the fish canning industries.

2. Farm machinery should have top priority as it is more critical now than at any time during the war.

3. All food processing plants should be put on the critical or urgency list so that they may be on a basis of equality with other war industries in the deferring of key men.

4. For many months we have been urging that a sufficient number of prisoners of war be made available to fill in the farm labor gap. Arrangements have just been made with the War De-

partment for making a definite number available each month so that the farmers may know what they can depend upon. We will continue to press for additional allotments of prisoners as necessary. Food will continue to be of first importance in the war effort. It will be of equal importance in the reconversion period.

5. We are urging that key personnel both on farms (in accordance with the Tydings amendment) and in food processing plants be deferred when satisfactory replacements are not available to carry on their work. In the discussion of certain items that are in short supply we should not lose sight of the fact that in every one of the war years we have had the greatest food production that any nation ever had in his-

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Supply of War Prisoner Labor Will Be Less than Anticipated

Some concern has been expressed recently by canners as to the supply of prisoner-of-war labor that will be available for the coming packing season in the light of current events in Europe.

Several months ago the War Department approved bringing in approximately 100,000 German prisoners of war to supplement those already here. Now that V-E Day has been proclaimed, it is stated that this movement will cease and only those already embarked will proceed to the United States. The number landed and to be landed represents about one-third of the total requested. These have been allocated to the service commands.

The commandants of these commands will allocate, to the best of their ability, their available supply of war prisoners among those concerns in their areas who have requested them. It is now more than likely that canners will not be allotted the number they have requested, but it is indicated, as of the present at least, that prisoners will be taken off of less essential work, and may also be brought in from service commands where work is slack for use in the canneries during the canning season.

It is not now definitely known when the War Department plans to return war prisoners to Europe.

SENATOR TAFT PROPOSES AMENDMENT OF PRICE ACT

**Would Liberalize Law and Lift All
Wage and Salary Controls on
January 1, 1946**

Senator Robert Taft of Ohio on Thursday introduced an amendment to resolution (S. J. Res. 30) to extend the Emergency Price Control Act, which would provide a substantial liberalization of the price policies of OPA. In a statement to the Senate he said:

"My suggestion is that the same margin over cost be allowed after January 1, 1946, as was enjoyed by the industry on the average in the years 1938, 1939 and 1940. I suggest further that the Stabilization Act of October, 1942, be entirely repealed, as to wages and salaries as of January 1, 1946. I propose further that no maximum rates shall be fixed on houses, construction of which is begun after July 1, 1945. I also suggest that the Administrator be directed after January 1, 1946, to exempt from price regulation all luxury and other commodities, the price of which does not substantially affect the cost of living. I have made these changes effective as of the end of 1945, leaving present controls in effect until that date."

The House Appropriations Committee reported out on Tuesday a bill (H. R. 3146) authorizing appropriations totaling \$18,433,000 for the purpose of initiating a group of surveys and censuses which are regarded as important to business interests in the reconversion period.

The studies contemplated follow: Consumer expenditures and savings study, including \$1,272,000 earmarked for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$2,091,000; consumer income study, \$3,222,000; sample census of population, \$3,200,000; expanded labor force statistics and reports, \$3,035,000; census of manufactures for 1945, \$5,595,000; sample census of business for 1945, \$1,200,000.

The census of manufactures was put on a biennial basis in 1921, but by Executive Order the censuses for 1941 and 1943 were set aside, so that the latest available figure on manufactures are for the year 1939. Plans for the proposed 1945 census include the collection of data on production of commodities, cost of raw materials, employment

and pay rolls, and similar items. Reports would be requested from an estimated 200,000 manufacturing plants.

The discontinuance of land grant rates by railroads for transportation of government traffic as proposed in H. R. 694 has been approved by the House and sent to the Senate.

Hearings on the proposal to extend the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act another three years continue before the House Ways and Means Committee, and controversy likewise continues over the provision to reduce by 50 per cent the tariff rates in effect in January, 1945.

R. E. Short, president of Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, which is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, favored extension of the Act on the ground that American efficiency is such that we no longer need excessive tariff protection.

J. M. Jones, secretary of the National Wool Growers Association, urged termination of the program and pointed out that industries having protective tariffs have been able to make greater contribution to the war effort than those without protection and dependent upon foreign sources of supply.

Domestic sugar producers announced their opposition to a further reduction in tariff rates. Fred G. Taylor, vice-president of the United States Beet Sugar Association, testified on behalf of his organization and the American Sugar Cane League, the Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association, and the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association.

New legislation (S. 902) on the school lunch program, which would authorize an annual appropriation of \$100,000,000 by the Federal Government to be matched by State funds, was introduced by Senators Russell of Georgia and Ellender of Louisiana.

The House approved on Thursday the Legislative appropriations bill (H. R. 3100), which includes a provision for an additional \$2,500 tax-free for each member of Congress for additional expenses.

Grapefruit Study Available

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has published the results of the recently completed study by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering to determine the various factors that influence the eating quality and nutritional value of grapefruit. While the study deals with Florida grapefruit, it has application for growers and handlers in Texas, Arizona, and California as well as in Florida. It is published as Technical Bulletin 886, "Seasonal Changes in Florida Grapefruit," and is for sale at 25 cents a copy by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

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Eight Canning Plants First to Receive WFA "Star" Awards

In recognition of continued outstanding performance in food processing, eight canning plants have been awarded the War Food Administration's "Star" award. These plants are the first to be approved for this recognition, which is given for high performance records for a period of two years or two processing seasons. Plants winning the award are:

Hanover Canning Company, Hanover, Pa.; Fuhremann Canning Company, Lanark, Ill.; Sycamore Preserve Works Corporation, Sycamore, Ill.; Bercut-Richards Packing Company, Sacramento, Calif.; Matmor Canning Company, Inc., Woodland, Calif.; Fruitland Canning Assn., Fruitland, Idaho; Idaho Canning Company, Payette, Idaho; and Gerber Products Company, Fremont, Mich.

In making the "A" and "Star" awards to plants WFA considers first the quantity and quality of production in view of available facilities. Other factors considered are ingenuity and cooperation, carrying out the purpose of various Government food purchase programs, effective management, training of additional labor, low absentee records, accident prevention, and provision for health and sanitation.

Ohio Canner Wins "A" Award

The Winorr Canning Company of Wauseon, Ohio, has been given the War Food Administration achievement "A" award. Formal presentation of the award took place on May 10 in the Memorial Auditorium at Wauseon.

Revised By-laws Issued

A copy of the By-laws of the National Cannery Association as revised by the Board of Directors at its meeting on March 22-23, has been mailed to each member of the Association. Additional copies may be obtained on request.

Fertilizer Placement for Peas

Plowing under fertilizer, or applying it in bands in the bottom of the furrow failed to show increases in yield as compared with the usual method of drilling the fertilizer in tests

with canning peas at the Ridgely Substation of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station in 1943, the Station states in its Fifty-sixth Annual Report.

The general conclusion drawn from previous tests is that the closer the fertilizer is placed to the seed the better, provided it is not actually in contact with the seed. Placement of the fertilizer in bands 1½ inches to the side and 1 inch below the seed has given the highest yields of any method tried.

CRITICAL LIST

(Concluded from page 8617)

tory. It was 32 per cent greater in 1943 and 37 per cent greater in 1944 than in pre-war years. We not only have the best fed army in the world, but in the main our civilians have eaten better than they did pre-war, and we have shipped millions of tons of food to our fighting allies in each of the war years. Without these abundant supplies they could not have carried on.

Demands on our food will continue to be great. In setting the 1945 goals last fall we asked for all-out production. We are now reemphasizing the urgent need to reach these high goals, and to this end are asking that the necessary labor and materials be made available.

In this connection, we want to assure you of our appreciation of the helpful attitude at all times of yourself and other members of the Congress.

Breeding Green and Wax Beans

Several selections of both green and wax-podded white seeded snap beans were grown at the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station in comparison with commercial varieties. Some of the selections which were obtained by crossing Hercules, Conserva, and Brittle Wax varieties were of excellent type and quality for canning. These deserve further study, the station points out in its 1944 report.

Of the commercial canning type varieties under trial, some are deserving of comment. Full Measure and Asgrow Stringless Greenpod were very similar in pod characters and yield. Commodore exceeded the above two varieties in yield and produced much longer pods of about the same width and thickness. Although of good quality, the pods tended to be crooked. Hercules has been outstanding in vigor and yield over a period of several years. The pods are long, straight, smooth, and are a very attractive canning type. They have a tendency, however, to become stringy if over-mature.

Price Ceiling Violators to Be Reported to Treasury by OPA

Individuals or firms who violate price ceilings will henceforth be reported regularly by the Office of Price Administration to the Treasury Department for examination of their tax obligations, under a national policy newly inaugurated by OPA. Information bearing on federal tax liability or indicating violation of federal tax laws will be forwarded by local OPA enforcement officials to the Treasury office having jurisdiction in that area. Two main types of information will be referred under the new instructions, as follows:

1. The names of customers who have bought goods for resale or for use in the course of trade or business at prices higher than ceiling prices will be taken from the books of sellers found in price violation and transmitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

According to a recent ruling of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, over-ceiling payments may not be deducted from taxable income as items of business expense. This means that a retailer who pays more than ceiling prices to his supplier may include in his expenses only the ceiling price, and his net taxable income is increased by the amount of his over-payments. In the same way a manufacturer who has paid an illegal premium for material may not deduct it from taxable income.

2. The names of sellers found to have collected illegal overcharges in the form of unrecorded cash side-payments, or who have concealed their overcharges by fraudulent invoices or records will also be reported to the Treasury for investigation as to whether such concealed income has been reported for tax purposes.

Information of this type has been supplied by OPA to Treasury agents on individual cases from time to time in the past, resulting in payment of taxes on as much as \$200,000 of unreported income. However, only now has such reporting been established as regular procedure to be followed in all appropriate cases.

Although, ordinarily, the statute of limitations for violations of the Emergency Price Control Act is only one year, the Treasury has three years to press a claim for taxes by civil suit and no limitation at all if the evasion involves fraud.

Seven Varieties of Tomatoes

In a test plot of 13 varieties of tomatoes, the results of which have been reported by the New York State Agri-

cultural Experiment Station at Geneva, the yields of seven standard types—Geneva John Baer, Nystate, Stokesdale, Redcap, Bonny Best, Rutgers, and Early Stone—were compared with six new varieties. Two of these new varieties, Wasatch Beauty and Hosenfelt, compared favorably with the standard varieties. Four new varieties, Firesteel, Camdown, Pan American, and Ventura, were not satisfactory for canning quality or yield.

In the table shown below the total yields are given as well as the separate yields for each harvest period, early (to September 1), midseason (September 1 to 10), and late (September 10 to end of season). The Hosenfelt variety differs from others in the list in that it is a potato leaf type with heavy foliage and vigorous plants. In season it is early but also produces well throughout September. Wasatch Beauty was very productive and produced 75 per cent of its fruit during the first 10 days of September. The yields in tons per acre for 1942 were as follows:

Variety	Mid-season			Total
	Early season	Late		
Wasatch Beauty.....	1.52	18.02	3.65	23.19
Hosenfelt.....	3.65	15.12	3.50	22.27
Nystate.....	2.25	14.56	3.94	20.75
Redcap.....	1.86	14.35	3.84	20.05
Stokesdale.....	1.91	13.18	3.77	18.86
Ventura.....	1.48	13.16	4.08	18.72
Bonny Best.....	1.45	13.52	3.17	18.14
Geneva John Baer.....	2.29	13.55	1.96	17.80
Camdown.....	0.31	9.77	7.59	17.37
Firesteel.....	4.11	8.37	4.28	16.76
Early Stone.....	0.87	11.89	3.77	16.53
Rutgers.....	0.65	7.69	7.28	15.62
Pan American.....	0.24	8.01	5.68	13.93

Davis Denies California 7½¢ Night Shift Wage Differential

Stabilization Director William H. Davis on May 6 announced the disapproval of a proposed 7½-cent night shift differential for employees of 38 northern California fruit and vegetable canning companies, which had been authorized by the 10th Regional War Labor Board at San Francisco, and approved by the National War Labor Board. Mr. Davis pointed out that this 7½-cent night shift differential was in excess of the ordinary differential permissible under National War Labor Board policies, and that no distinction was made between the proposed differential to be paid between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. and the ordinary second shift differential. Mr. Davis limited his decision to the night shift question.

Previously, on February 17, 1945, the Stabilization Director had approved other wage adjustments ordered by the WLB Regional Board at San Francisco. These included two-weeks' paid vacation after five years of service, a guar-

anteed minimum rate of 70 cents an hour for individual piece workers and overtime pay after eight hours' work in one day or after 48 hours in a week. The Regional Board had directed that the increases covering hours, overtime, and night shift differential should be effective as of March 1, 1944, and that retroactive wage payments should be made at the appropriate time.

Mosaic-resistant Beans Found

Five varieties of mosaic-resistant Refugee type canning beans, Idaho, U. S. No. 5, Sensation 1066, Sensation 1071, and Medal, have been introduced during the past seven years, according to the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. These new sorts were introduced to take the place of Old Fashioned Refugee which is susceptible to bean mosaic. This old type cannot be grown profitably where mosaic is prevalent.

Yield records of these new varieties at Geneva, N. Y., during 1942 and over a period of years are given below and show that the first four varieties are very satisfactory for New York State:

Variety	1942 yields		Average yields	
	Tons per acre	No. of years	Tons per acre	
Idaho.....	6.47	4	5.19	
U. S. No. 5.....	6.34	5	5.06	
Sensation 1066.....	6.39	4	5.78	
Sensation 1071.....	5.80	5	4.97	
Medal.....	3.78	2	3.60	

Sensation 1066 was the earliest and Idaho the latest maturing in the group. U. S. No. 5 produced the largest tonnage at the first picking, while Sensation 1071 showed its heaviest picking at the second harvest six days later. Medal, the newest variety, has a smaller plant with less vigor and lower yields. Measurements of length, width, and thickness indicate the similarity of these varieties in pod characters, except in color.

The flavor, tenderness, and sieve size of the pods are satisfactory. The color of the pods of the first four varieties is light green to a light silver green. Medal definitely has darker green pods which are attractive in appearance. When these varieties are grown under adverse conditions, or when picking is delayed, the pods are often noticeably very light in color and not always satisfactory. Where the pods are allowed to reach large size, the pink color of the seed is noticeable when canned and may cause an objectionable pink discoloration of the liquor.

The flavor of the canned product of each of these beans is excellent. The pods are stringless, tender, and palatable, either canned as whole or cut beans.

LIMA BEANS FOR CANNING

BAE Report Indicates an Increase of 11 Per Cent over Last Year's Planted Acreage

Reports from canners and freezers compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicate that the green lima bean acreage for 1945 will be about 11 per cent over the 1944 planted acreage. Should these late April plans be carried out in the various States, the acreage planted for lima beans for processing will total 74,300 acres compared with 66,750 acres planted in 1944, and an average of 49,640 acres for the preceding 10-year (1934-43) period.

Loss of acreage planted to green lima beans for processing has averaged 6.4 per cent annually during the past 10 years. If loss occurs in 1945 in line with the 10-year average, a planting of 74,300 acres will result in about 69,500 acres for harvest. This compares with the revised estimate for 1944 of 59,220 acres and an average of 46,660 acres for the preceding 10-year (1934-43) period.

The following table shows the 1945 intended acreage as compared with actual acreage planted in 1944:

States	1944		1945	
	planted	intended	planted	intended
	<i>Acre</i>		<i>Acre</i>	
New York.....	850	800		
New Jersey.....	13,600	15,000		
Pennsylvania.....	1,500	3,000		
Ohio.....	1,300	1,700		
Michigan.....	2,900	3,600		
Wisconsin.....	3,000	4,000		
Delaware.....	11,600	13,200		
Maryland.....	4,500	5,000		
Virginia.....	3,200	2,900		
Utah.....	900	900		
Washington.....	900	700		
California.....	4,700	4,300		
Other States.....	17,800	19,140		
U. S. Total.....	66,750	74,300		

FRUIT CROP PROSPECTS

Prospects for 1945 crop production as of May 1 were not quite so bright as a month earlier but promise a total output that would compare favorably with the excellent showings of the last three years, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics announced in its monthly report issued on May 10. Following are brief statements from the report with respect to fruit crops of interest to canners:

Commercial Apples.—Early May conditions suggest a much smaller United States apple production than in 1944 but probably a larger harvest than the extremely short 1943 crop. An extremely light production is probable for the area east of the Mississippi

River. In the West the season is late and prospects on May 1 were favorable for large crops again this year, but not so large as in 1944.

Peaches.—Production in the ten early southern States is forecast at 25,820,000 bushels, which is 50 per cent more than the 1944 crop. In eastern and central areas to the north, including Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Michigan, April freezes materially reduced excellent early season prospects. In California both Clingstone and Free-stone varieties had a large set of fruit and large crops appear likely this year. In Colorado production will probably not equal last year's record crop. In northern Utah crop prospects are favorable to date; likewise in Washington. In Oregon crop prospects appear favorable, although there is some concern over moisture supply in the non-irrigated Dalles area.

Pears.—California prospects are excellent for both Bartlett's and other varieties. In Washington Bartlett pear trees were in full bloom by April 20 in the main valleys and the set of fruit appeared uniform. Oregon Bartlett prospects are good. The outlook for D'Anjous appears more favorable than for the Bosc variety. In eastern States excellent early-season prospects were sharply reduced by April freezes and poor pollination weather.

Plums and Prunes.—In California a larger production of prunes than a year ago is in prospect. Plums are making good progress. Washington prune prospects are the best in several years.

Cherries.—In the eastern cherry States prospects have deteriorated sharply since April 1 and from all indications the cherry crop will be less than half as large as last season. In the western States, where sweet varieties predominate, prospects as a whole are excellent.

Apricots.—In California the 1945 production is forecast at 184,000 tons compared with a record crop of 324,000 tons in 1944. Washington apricot prospects are favorable.

Citrus.—Citrus groves have received excellent care in all citrus States and prospects are favorable for the 1945-46 crop in all areas except Florida, where very little rain fell during February, March, and April.

Maximum Wages for Pea Pickers

Maximum wages under specific wage ceilings have been set by the Office of Labor, War Food Administration, after certification by the California WFA Wage Board that a majority of the

producers of fresh market spring peas in designated areas desired the intervention of the War Food Administrator.

Payment for piecework will be made at the rate of 60¢ per filled bushel container of sorted peas at checking stations. Where other units of measure are used, the rates must not exceed the equivalent of the per bushel rate. The ceiling for hourly wages was set at 75¢ per hour.

Administration of the order, effective May 8, has been delegated to the California WFA Wage Board, located at 2181 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California.

GREEN PEAS FOR CANNING

Cold Weather, Rains Delay Planting and Growth of Crop in Many Parts of Country

Rains and cold weather in most parts of the country have delayed the planting of green peas grown for processing, according to the May 1 progress and condition report issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The following summary, which is taken from the BAE report, shows the progress of planting and condition of the green pea crop by States and areas:

Delaware, the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia: Mild weather in March enabled farmers to make considerable progress in preparing their ground for green peas. Planting the 1945 crop for processing was completed somewhat earlier than usual. The crop developed rapidly after planting but a severe frost early in April inflicted considerable damage, and on much of the early planted acreage, the crop has not fully recovered.

Pennsylvania and Western Maryland: Growers had practically finished planting green peas for processing by May 1. Conditions were favorable for germinating the seed within a few days after it was planted. Except for local areas which were damaged by hail late in the month, the crop was making good growth.

New York: Preparations were started by growers early in April for this crop and by May 1, many of the fields were planted to green peas. A period of cool weather checked germination and growth, but the season is still 7 to 10 days earlier than usual.

Ohio, Indiana, Michigan: Likewise, an early season extended westward into these three States. Only a few growers expected to plant pea seed after May 1 and seed already in the ground was germinating satisfactorily. Cool weather with temperatures dropping

below freezing in some areas checked the advancement of the crop but no permanent damage appears to have been done.

Illinois and Wisconsin: Conditions favorable for the germination and growth of this crop also prevailed in Illinois but they were less favorable in Wisconsin. In this State an occasional grower started planting around mid-April, but cool, frosty weather tended to delay planting until May 1 to 10. This is fully 10 days later than usual.

Iowa and Minnesota: Practically all of the land intended for early varieties was planted in April and growers were nearly half finished with planting the late varieties. Soil conditions were satisfactory for germinating the seed.

Colorado and Utah: Operations were being carried on about on schedule in these States. While rains impeded progress slightly, very little land remained to be planted to green peas after May 1.

Oregon and Washington: In these two States, unusually cool, wet weather in March and part of April prevented growers from preliminary work in the fields. By the last of April growers were nearly a week behind schedule. Seed was germinating in the early fields under favorable conditions and an effort is being made to complete planting most of the remaining acreage by mid-May.

1944 Pumpkin and Squash Pack

The following table, which lists the total pack by States in actual cases, is a summary of reports from all pumpkin and squash canners who packed in 1944 as compared with the 1943 pack:

States	1943 Cases	1944 Cases
New Jersey.....	23,169	87,378
Ohio.....	115,606	196,594
Indiana.....	587,750	828,171
Illinois.....	199,548	240,067
Iowa and Nebraska.....	23,405	73,193
Utah.....		12,139
Oregon and Washington.....	131,636	122,825
Other States.....	371,280	567,007
Total U. S.....	1,452,403	2,127,374

Containerboard Gets Top Rating

Containerboard, as defined under Order M-290, including solid and corrugated fiber sheets, used in the manufacture of fiber containers and boxes, has been placed on the National Production Urgency List, the War Production Board has reported. This means that manufacturers of this type of paperboard are entitled to the highest urgency ratings when seeking to re-

place labor losses or to increase the number of employees for additional production. Besides containerboard, sulphate wood pulp, for which there is a current high demand in paper and paperboard production, container veneer and steel strapping were added to the Production Urgency List.

Asparagus Standards Hearing

The public hearing upon a proposal to amend the definition and standards of identity for canned asparagus previously announced (see INFORMATION LETTER for April 14) was held by the Food and Drug Administration on May 8. This proposed amendment would provide for optional use of packing medium consisting of juice expressed from center cuts, butts, broken or opened tips, crooked spears, and other parts of asparagus not used in canning.

In support of the proposal, testimony was given by John T. Knowles of Libby, McNeill, and Libby, who described results of experimental packs and analyses for nutritive value. The only other witness was Joseph Callaway, Jr., of the Food and Drug Administration, whose testimony was not in opposition to the proposal but related to appropriate forms of labeling for canned asparagus packed with the proposed medium.

The presiding officer set a period of 10 days following the close of the hearing for filing of written arguments or statements in correction of the record. These should be submitted in quintuplicate to Edward E. Turkel, Food and Drug Administration, Room 4148 South Building, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Fish Import Quota Increased

The Bureau of Customs announced on Tuesday that the quota of fresh and frozen fish that may be imported under the Canadian trade agreement at a special rate of 1½ cents per pound is increased from 15,000,000 to 17,068,311 pounds for the calendar year 1945.

This quota, however, is a decrease from the 1944 quota of 18,210,658 pounds, as the quotas are computed on the average apparent annual consumption of fish within the United States for the last three years. In making the computation for 1945, the year 1941, which was the record year in fish production, was dropped.

This rate will apply to cod, haddock, lake, pollock, cusk and rosefish, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, or divided into portions, not specially provided for.

Maximum Wage Rates Set for California Asparagus Workers

Maximum wage rates for asparagus workers for cutting and sledging and for canning, racking and boxing cannery culls which are utilized for human consumption were announced May 9 by the War Food Administration. Under a directive, effective May 8, the rates for cutting and sledging other than No. 1 cannery white and green can not exceed \$2.75 per hundredweight or 92¢ per 33½-lb. packed-out market crate harvested from prime asparagus beds which are not less than five nor more than ten years old. In other than prime beds, the rates can not exceed \$3.25 per hundredweight or \$1.08 for a 33½-lb. packed-out market crate. Where workers are paid on a field-box basis, rates may not exceed these equivalents.

For hand washing, racking and boxing, the rate is 55¢ per hundredweight for No. 1 green. In machine washing, racking and boxing the rate is 40¢ per hundredweight for No. 1 green.

No payment may be made for cutting, sledging, washing, racking or boxing those cannery culls which are not utilized for human consumption.

Delaware Lima Bean Study

In order to assist growers in selecting the most profitable management practices, the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Delaware at Newark has reported the results of lima bean production cost and management studies conducted in cooperation with Sussex County farmers, in Mimeographed Circular No. 31 entitled "Lima Bean Cost and Management Study, Delaware, 1943."

It is pointed out in this publication that the data should not be considered as conclusive since they were obtained in a single season which was very unfavorable for lima bean production. In spite of the poor growing conditions during 1943, however, some of the management practices are so striking that the Extension Service felt they should be presented for consideration.

Sweet Potato Ceilings Increased

Ceiling prices for 1945-crop sweet potatoes will be increased 17 cents per bushel, the War Food Administration and the Office of Price Administration announced May 7. This means that ceiling prices will average \$2.75 per bushel over the season at the Sunset (La.) basing point. The season average for the 1944 crop was \$2.58 per bushel.

Personnel of the Association's Committees for 1945

ADJUSTMENT

New England States

Fred E. Jewett, Norridgewock, Maine, *Chairman*
 Milroy Warren, Lubec, Maine
 James S. Wyman, Millbridge, Maine

Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and Ozark Territory

Hugh K. Funderburg, Belvidere, Ill., *Chairman*
 Charles L. Diven, Wickes, Ark.
 Morton Steinhart, Nebraska City, Nebr.

Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Tennessee, and Kentucky

W. W. Wilder, Clyde, Ohio, *Chairman*
 Rodney H. Koontz, Gaston, Ind.
 John Porter, East Jordan, Mich.

Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia

T. Stran Summers, New Freedom, Pa., *Chairman*
 J. Oscar Hunt, Swedesboro, N. J.
 D. Thompson Swing, Ridgely, Md.

New York

R. W. Comstock, Newark, N. Y., *Chairman*
 R. E. Chittenden, Newark, N. Y.
 William E. Halstead, Cortland, N. Y.

Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota

Henry M. Selppel, Beaver Dam, Wis., *Chairman*
 John L. Albright, Columbus, Wis.
 Henry W. Hartle, Owatonna, Minn.

Utah, Montana, Colorado, and Idaho

Joseph F. Barker, Ogden, Utah, *Chairman*
 Reynold H. Peterson, Cowley, Wyo.
 William Varney, Roy, Utah

Southern States

J. S. Caffero, Savannah, Ga., *Chairman*
 A. C. Ketzer, Winter Haven, Fla.
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SUGAR HEARINGS START

House Group Told that Sugar Supplies will be Short through 1946

The House Special Committee investigating food shortages opened hearings on the current sugar shortage on Tuesday and were told that the shortage would continue through 1946 but that supplies would meet the demand during the first months of 1947. This statement was made by Earl Wilson, chief of the sugar section of Commodity Credit Corporation, who stated that food supplies should have been centralized under one agency early in the emergency but that it was too late to change now.

Dr. Joshua Bernhardt, chief of the Sugar Branch of War Food Administration, reported there was a "leakage" of 700,000 to 800,000 tons in domestic supplies last year, which was the amount distributed over and above domestic allocations. He revealed that WFA had suggested to the Office of Price Administration a tightening of rationing, but he added that all blame for over-distribution could not be laid to OPA.

Dudley Smith, Washington representative of the Association of Sugar Producers of Puerto Rico, listed three steps to restore sugar production on the island to more normal levels. He recommended an increase in sugar prices sufficient to restore a reasonable margin of earning or profit, the coordination of the work of 25 federal agencies directly or indirectly involved in sugar controls, and a restoration of confidence in the future of sugar so growers will feel justified in expending money for new plantings.

Mr. Smith estimated that consumers had lost nearly 850,000 tons of sugar from Puerto Rico in the last three years through harassment from government agencies, which forced producers to curtail their output. He said that unless the Government reveals the price they will pay, continental consumers will lose another 250,000 tons this year as the planting season ends in another month.

Ody H. Lamborn, New York sugar broker, proposed that a sugar administrator be appointed to coordinate the activities of the Government in relation to sugar. He said governmental policy had been to stress distribution rather than production and that Cuba had planted cane for a crop of 5,000,000 tons in 1943 but that the American Government was willing to purchase only 3,000,000 tons that year.

Ernest W. Greene, vice-president of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, reported that production in the

islands is handicapped by a shortage of manpower and machinery. If these shortages can be relieved, he said the islands can produce more sugar this year as they will market cane ordinarily carried over to next year's crop.

David M. Kelsner, president of the Cuban-American Sugar Company, advocated conclusion of arrangements to purchase the Cuban crop through 1947 to induce growers to expand their acreage. He criticized a provision in the U. S. contract limiting purchases to the amount that could be shipped out of Cuba.

Clarence J. Bourg, representing the American Sugar Cane League of Louisiana and beet growers of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio, said that government departments handling sugar thought in terms of reduction rather than expansion of the domestic production of sugar.

Ellsworth Bunker, president of the National Sugar Refining Company, spoke on behalf of the U. S. Cane Sugar Refiners Association. He predicted that military demands may equal last year's even though the European war is ended and that stocks at the end of 1945 may be the lowest on record.

Mr. Bunker attributed the current shortage to five causes—the loss of former foreign prolific producing areas, a decline in production of continental beet sugar and cane in Puerto Rico and Hawaii, a decline in production in some formerly German-occupied countries, heavy non-food uses of sugar, principally in industrial alcohol and rubber manufacture, and a steady impairment of stocks over the war period.

As a means of conserving sugar supplies, he suggested a study of the possibility of substituting other carbohydrates for sugar to be sent to liberated areas.

E. C. Thatcher Dies

E. C. Thatcher, past president of the Ohio Cannery Association and president of the DeGraff Food Company, DeGraff, Ohio, died suddenly on April 30 while visiting with relatives at Elyria.

Association Committees

President Fred A. Stare has announced the personnel of Association committees he is authorized to appoint for 1945. A complete list of these and other Association committees is given on pages 8622 and 8623 in this week's LETTER.

WFA Outlines Procedure for Processors Seeking Manpower

The War Food Administration has announced the following procedure for food processors to use in seeking additional manpower:

Processors should contact WFA district representatives for assistance. District representatives represent the food industry on the Production Urgency and Manpower Priorities Committees which must approve applications for manpower assistance.

To obtain manpower priorities and ceiling increases, applications should be submitted to WMC through the local USES office. Forms WMC-63 and ES-270 may be used. If possible, processors should talk with the area director, manager, or local Rural Industries Representative in the USES office and explain problems.

If an urgency rating is not already established, or if it is not high enough, the WFA District Representative will present the case to the Production Urgency Committee. "Urgency" ratings must be established before manpower priorities can be given. The priority can be no higher than the urgency rating.

Manpower applications will go to the Manpower Priorities Committee for approval under sponsorship of WFA. The local USES office will be notified of rating granted and will make referrals accordingly. If the Manpower Priorities Committee does not approve the application, or if the rating is not high enough, it can be appealed. If the referrals are not made, USES will tell the processor why. If not, he should contact the WFA District Representative who will give assistance.

In case of emergencies, the WMC Area Director can establish emergency ratings without Committee clearance.

Snap Bean Soft Rot Control

Granular cyanamid uniformly broadcast over the field at the rate of 1,000 pounds per acre for control of white mold or watery soft rot of snap beans is recommended by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, based on experiments conducted by workers at that Station in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. When attacking beans this disease causes destruction of the plants in the field and rotting and nesting of beans in hampers.

Since this nitrogen-bearing fertilizer material is toxic to plant growth, as well as to the disease when first applied, and also causes a temporary change in soil reaction, it is suggested that the material be applied to bean fields early in May, thus giving them time to return to normal pH reaction by Fall and assuring that the material will not be toxic to the plants.